

NOTES ON *SILPHA INAEQUALIS* FABRICIUS
(COLEOPTERA: SILPHIDAE)

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On 21 June 1971, at Fletcher, Henderson County, North Carolina, I noticed the bright flashes of what appeared to be sizeable metallic blue beetles flying about a carrion trap suspended from a tree limb. Upon investigation I found a few *S. inaequalis*, a small (10-12mm.), flat, dull black, carrion beetle, on the carrion or resting on the limb above it. I was puzzled to find nothing metallic about at all.

Suddenly a *S. inaequalis* answered my question. As it raised its elytra in preparation for flight, I noticed two unusual things. First, the elytra were not merely raised enough to allow deployment of the membranous wings—they were raised to the vertical and clapped together over the back like the wings of a resting butterfly, exposing the entire undersurface. Second, the exposed undersides of the elytra were bright metallic blue.

As the beetle flew, the vertically oriented elytra created the impression of a much larger insect while their reflective undersurfaces flashed metallic blue as they caught the light. Upon alighting and lowering the elytra the large metallic beetle suddenly vanished, leaving a small black one to mark the spot.



LITERATURE NOTICE

Etude sur les Erotylidae (Coleoptera) paléarctiques, by S. M. Iablokoff-Khuzorian. 1975. Acta Zool. Cracoviensia, 20(8):201-249, illus. Keys to subfamilies, tribes, genera, and species from the Palearctic. The fauna contains 19 genera and 111 species (33 in *Triplax* and 30 in *Tritoma*). Citations to original descriptions of senior and junior synonyms and general distributions are given. Illustrations show body form and distinctive markings.

—Anon.